

The SOUTHEAST NEWS

OF, BY AND FOR CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

Volume 1 - Number 10

JULY, 1953

PLANS FOR PROGRESS

At the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Southeast Convention, held June 16 in Atlanta, the four standing committees of the Southeast Convention completed plans of organization and set up their general goals and purposes—some for several months and one for a five year period!

The Board accepted with regret, and expressions of appreciation for her service, the resignation of Miss Loretta Petersen as Director of Christian Education. Miss Petersen will return to public health nursing, her profession before joining the staff of the Southeast Convention.

While the four committees convened in separate session, the Board met to consider the budget and to make recommendations and decisions regarding several necessary adjustments in the budget.

In the afternoon the four committees met again with the Board of Directors to make their reports.

Survey and Church Aid Committee

The report of this committee was given by the chairman, the Rev. Goff Bedford, who said that his committee would engage in several types of functions: 1) The survey and establishment of new churches. 2) The strengthening of established churches, particularly those receiving missionary aid, with a policy of friendly visitation to better understand their problems and to make suggestions as to improving their programs. 3) Helping part-time churches to grow into fulltime churches.

The committee offered recommendations for aid in several situations, and recommended extensive studies in Montgomery, Ala., and Biloxi, Miss., to see what could be done about establishing churches there.

Ministry and Churches Committee

Dr. Thos. Anderson, chairman, gave the report for this committee, stating that their task is to suggest and recommend to the similar committees of the associations and conferences as to standards and procedures, in the matter of licensure, recognition and ordination of ministers. The committee will also aid the association and conference committees in implementing the suggestions. 1) That application for licensure (or renewal), ordination, etc., be filed with the Committee on Ministerial Standing at least 90 days before the actual meeting. 2) That all applications be accompanied by history of the applicant, recommendations from people who know him, and a written request from the church being served or which he intends to serve. 3) That each association and

conference be urged to have an examination in council as a part of the ordaining counsel. 4) That the Convention prepare a certificate on the Convention basis that can be adapted to the conference or association but bearing the Convention name; presentation to be made at annual meeting of conference or association in a significant manner.

The Convention committee is inviting association and conference moderators and chairmen of their Ministerial Standing Committees to meet with them in Atlanta on July 22. The findings of this meeting with the larger body will then be mimeographed and mailed out to all the ministers of the Convention.

Evangelism, Stewardship and Missionary Education Committee

Chairman of this committee, the Rev. Joe A. French, defined its purpose, "to coordinate, motivate, organize and direct from the Convention to the conference and association to the local churches that there may be sufficient emphasis in the churches on these three phases of the work."

The Rev. Carolyn Welch, chosen as scribe for this committee, reported as follows:

Stewardship—in the interest of getting the churches aware of their responsibility for stewardship and the every member canvass, the committee will request that each conference and association allow them time on the fall programs. They have invited the Rev. Frank Edwards to speak to the conferences on stewardship; and are preparing a skit on the Every Member Canvass for the association meetings.

Missionary Education—Miss Ione Catton has been invited to present a series of missionary education institutes to be held in local churches, afternoon and evening, during the period February 1-14, 1954. Tentative plans for the agenda of the institutes is Corbin, Ky.; Chattanooga, Tenn.; Barnesville, Ga.; Vanceville, Ga.; Antioch in Andalusia, Ala.; Tallassee, Mt. Olive; Roanoke, Lowell; Birmingham, Pilgrim; and one of the North Alabama Association churches.

The committee reported that they would discuss and make recommendations on Evangelism at their next meeting.

Education and Youth Work Committee

The Rev. John E. Pickens, Jr., chairman of this committee, announced that the report would be given by the scribe, the Rev. Annie R. Campbell.



Our Christian World Mission Convocation

The annual Convocation of the National Committee on OUR CHRISTIAN WORLD MISSION met on May 26-28 in Racine, Wis., where it meets each spring on the campus of a former Episcopalian college, beside Lake Michigan.

Representative from each conference or convention met under the leadership of Rev. R. Norris Wilson (standing, left front), associate secretary and minister of the Missions Council, for the purpose of hearing presentations of the American Board, the Home Boards, the Council for Social Action, and Relief and Reconstruction. Goals for Our Christian World Mission are discussed and how they are to be presented to the local churches. The new materials for the Every Member Canvass are presented, as well as the materials for missionary education. Also, the Rev. Alexander Ferguson, head of the Audio-Visual Aids Department of the Home Boards, presented the new picture of the year as well as several other new films.

The Southeast Convention was represented by the Rev. C. Carl Dollar, who also served as chaplain to the group.

Miss Campbell read the following recommendations: 1) A Pilgrim Fellowship planning council related to the present work. 2) More use of 5th Sundays for youth work. 3) Clarification of leadership of summer conferences. 4) Informing leaders of youth about denominational and other resources available. 5) Program guides and news to be sent to all youth groups; perhaps a Southeast Convention newsletter.

Announcement was made that Miss Mildred C. Widbur, of the denominational Department of Children's Work, would be in this area Sept. 28 - Oct. 2. Arrangements are being made for a meeting of this committee with her in Atlanta on Sept. 29-30.

It was also announced that the Rev. Pickens would be available to visit summer camps and conferences, attend youth meetings and for meetings on Sunday nights, in churches near enough to LaGrange, to set up youth organizations or Sunday Schools.

The committee also offered a resolution ex-

pressing its appreciation to Miss Petersen and its regret that she felt it necessary to resign. The committee requested that the Board of Directors consider assisting her in her education should she decide to return to the work.

Trustees for Southern Union College

The Rev. Clyde C. Flannery, President of Southern Union College, requested that the Board of Directors elect three trustees for Southern Union College. After some discussion, the following men were elected: The Rev. Marshall Wingfield of Memphis, Tenn.; the Rev. W. C. Carpenter of Tifton, Ga.; and Supt. Wm. N. Tuttle of the Florida Conference.

At the suggestion of the Rev. Joe A. French, the Board voted to set up in the Southeast Convention a series of institutes on church architecture for the benefit of churches planning buildings and needing expert and immediate advise.

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held in Atlanta on August 18, 1953.

A PLAN FOR BUILDING

By Richard Drake

Is there room for expansion of the Congregational Christian Church in the Southeast, or shall we remain a minor denomination among the voices of Protestantism in the south? Is there a place for us in the New South, or can the existing churches meet the religious demands of our growing section? The questions have been raised by many before. Perhaps it is time for us to begin to face them, and perhaps come to some answers, some line of advance, so that we may act on some specific program for our church in this area.

First, the question is asked, is there room for our denomination in the south? My answer is an emphatic yes! Liberalism is stronger in the south than most of our northern brethren realize. It has some spokesmen in the south, principally the Methodist Church, but these spokesmen lack the local control, respect for individual and organizational freedom which the southerner on the whole prefers. One of the reasons for Baptist strength in this area is its congregational church government. Congregational Christian strength can be built on an enduring basis because of our recognition of the local church as the governing body.

Theology is the main reason for existence of denominations. Our liberalism, a theological tendency finding more and more adherents in our southland as time goes on, will attract strength to ourselves. We have no creed, no set of uniform beliefs. For that reason we can draw to ourselves Christians who find the organizational or creedal straight-jackets of other denominations too confining.

Much of our strength in the past has come to us from other denominations. Some of our most powerful churches in the Convention were formed by breaks with other Christian groups. Though we are strengthened by such additions, we should not depend on this to find vitality. Such departure from other denominations will continue, and as we gain in strength they may increase. But our plans for expansion cannot depend entirely on this, in my opinion.

The plan of expansion I should like to present probably lacks the evangelism that many others might desire. But techniques are not my concern. A strategy must be laid before the tactics of the specific situation can be applied. It is my purpose to suggest this over-all strategy.

As one surveys the situation of our denomination in the south, one is struck by the analogy that an urban denomination (which ours is on the national scale) finds its main strength in rural areas. Probably if we are to grow it will take a process of country churches planting city churches for a denomination that has had its best results in the cities. Such is the direction we must move, I believe, if we are to become more vital.

Before this ultimate job of creating strength in the urban south can be carried out, it will be necessary to strengthen our position among the rural and town churches in the Southern Union

area. This growth here must be based upon: 1) a strengthened Southern Union for the training of ministerial and lay leadership, 2) Our town churches in the Chattahoochee valley must be made stronger, for what strength they show will be contagious to those rural churches about them. This seems to be happening now with our activities in Lanett, Langdale, LaGrange, Columbus and Phenix City, 3) Our rural churches in this area must be reinforced by closer associations and drawing upon the facilities of Southern Union and the valley town churches.

This first phase of our growth, the phase I have just described, is now in process. Southern Union, our valley and rural churches are becoming stronger. They must continue to do so, for this is the cornerstone upon which the edifice of a stronger denomination must be built.

The ultimate power of our denomination must come from our city churches. If our denomination has a message for our time, it is uniquely prepared to present it to the New South which is rising all about us, but more specifically it is rising in our cities. Much as we dislike to admit it, America is becoming an urban nation. Only 17% of us today make our living from agriculture. Less than one in five. The challenge must be met, and our denomination can meet it.

We should have at least one church in each of our principal urban areas throughout the south. Already we have churches in Atlanta, Chattanooga, Birmingham, Charleston and Memphis. These churches should be strengthened and perhaps, when the situation warrants it, other churches should be started in surrounding suburban areas. But we should have many more churches in other urban areas throughout the south—in Nashville, Savannah, Augusta, Columbus, Mobile, Montgomery, Knoxville, Frankfurt, Lexington and Louisville.

If this is the direction we are to move, we have a golden opportunity to try our wings right now! The Nashville church has refused to die. A nucleus for building a strong church within a half decade exists. If we rise to the opportunity now and really give it a trial, sparing no funds to the people who believe they have a situation ripe for building, we will discover our possibilities for growth. If Nashville succeeds it will provide a pattern for establishing churches in cities throughout the south.

A second direction in which we can move to strengthen the Congregational Christian Church in the south is to move into areas of high potential where crying need of our ministry exists. Such a project as the one in Aiken should be excitedly entered into, and other such projects should be sought out.

The last point of my over-all program is to take as full advantage as we can of the educational facilities for reaching out to this new south. Here

(Please turn to page 11)

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Explanations and Apologies . . .

First, an explanation as to why the summer camp page of places and dates was left out—it was scheduled for the back page of the June issue of the magazine. Unfortunately, the Constitution and By-laws took up more space than we had anticipated, and it was necessary for the printers to omit something. They chose to leave off the camp schedules, much to our dismay and regret. We would have preferred to have a larger magazine, even tho it would have cost more, than to leave out this important information at this time.

It was also necessary for the printer to leave out some of the Pilgrim Fellowship news, and we regret this also. We hope the PF reporters will forgive us this once, and will send us more news of their plans and programs so that we may use it in future issues.

As many of you know, the magazine is now printed in Michigan, and last-minute changes and corrections are not easy to make. We shall try very hard to estimate the amount of news correctly so that in the future NOTHING will be omitted.

A new junior Pilgrim Fellowship group has just been formed at the Tifton, Vanceville Church, under the guidance of Mrs. Davis. The young people have taken as their first project the securing of subscriptions to the **Southeast News!** Our thanks and best wishes go to this group, and we wish them success in this project and in their PF program throughout the coming year.

If any other PF groups would like to adopt us as their project, we will be most happy to send them sample copies of the magazine along with our hopes and prayers for their success.

CORRECTION

The Parish Workbook for Town and Country Churches was listed at \$11.00! This was a typographical error of the printer, and the workbook really sells for ONE DOLLAR! We have ordered a

Rev. Arnold Slater and Family to Spend Month in Canada

The Rev. Arnold Slater, newly elected Moderator of the Southeast Convention and pastor of the Pilgrim Church in Chattanooga, Tenn., was one of nine persons in Chattanooga asked to represent the Adult Education Council in study sessions at "Bigwin" Island, Canada. This is sponsored by the Ford Foundation. He left, June 26th and will return the middle of July. Mrs. Slater, Betty and Mark accompanied Mr. Slater to visit relatives in Timiskaming, Province of Quebec.

Dr. May C. Wharton Honored

Flushed and happy, Dr. May Cravath Wharton, of Pleasant Hill, Tenn., returned recently from a visit to her Alma Mater, Carleton College, Minn., that proved a triumphant progress in recognition of a life-time of service to the people of the Cumberland Plateau. Dr. Wharton was one of nine outstanding alumni who had been chosen to receive the Alumni Achievement Awards for 1953.

In handing her the certificate, Dr. Laurence Gould addressed her as Physician, Hospital Founder and Humanitarian, and read a brief account of her work in founding Uplands Sanatorium. Engraved on the certificate was the statement that the Award was given in recognition of "outstanding service to humanity in the field of medicine and in the organization of facilities for medical care." The certificate now hangs in the Reception Room at Uplands.

Secretary Wanted at Berea

According to Dean Lawrence L. Gruman, Coordinator of Religious Activities at Berea College, Berea, Ky., he is in need of a secretary, since his present one is leaving California in August.

The salary is \$2,000 a year, with Christmas and Easter vacations and one month's summer vacation. Living expenses on the campus are extremely low, running about \$2.50 per week for a furnished room and about \$5.50 per week for three meals a day.

Working at Berea is much more than having a job; one "lives" Berea. As a member of the faculty, the secretary has all the facilities of the college available to her. There is, for example Westervelt Shop where one can learn woodcraft, metalcraft, and other types of handcraft. There is also an active Business and Professional Women's Club, a League of Women Voters, church organizations. For recreation there is the Faculty Club, the college dramatic, musical art, and athletic events, movies each Saturday. Nearby Lexington is a Community Concert Center and an excellent shopping center.

But apart from these advantages, Berea College is a grand place to work because of its atmosphere of friendliness and helpfulness and because of its Christian purpose and aim. Rewards do not come in terms of money so much as in terms of social, personal and religious satisfaction.

limited number of copies which we will be glad to send out upon request from ministers.

— SUPERINTENDENT'S PAGE —

TOWARD SPIRITUAL POWER

Last month I told you about a very valuable book that every town and rural church should have: "A Parish Workbook for Town and Country Churches." A printer's error set the price at \$11.00! It's worth every bit of that amount and more, but you can have this wonderful help at the amazingly low price of \$1.00! How's that for the best book bargain of the year? So send in your orders to me, or directly to the Town and Country Department of the Board of Home Missions, 287 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y.

I've just reread Dr. Royal J. Montgomery's little pamphlet entitled "A Manual for Deacons and Deaconesses of Congregational Christian Churches." It's a challenging little guide well worth reviewing. Too often we elect worthy men and women to church offices and never define their duties nor give them training in how to do their job to the best of their ability.

Being a Deacon or Deaconess in Christ's Church is a great honor and responsibility. The tradition of the office goes back to the New Testament Church when "men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and wisdom were selected to assist the Apostles in the spiritual oversight of new converts and in the care of the needy. St. Paul lists their qualifications as "Self-control, temperate, blameless, hospitable, conciliatory, managers and not lovers of money." Today the task of the Deacon and Deaconess is to assist the pastor in helping the church to envision and achieve its spiritual possibilities.

Dr. Montgomery says "In our early denominational life, to be elected a deacon was the highest honor that could be conferred upon a lay member of the church. In some churches it is still so considered, but in the majority the functions of the deacons have been so neglected and underdeveloped that the trustees, whos duties are more strictly material, have been accorded more recognition and honor. In many churches, the deacon is the "forgotten man," and so inactive that one pastor wrote: 'When I'm dead and gone, let my deacons shed no tears, for I'll be no dearer than than they have been for years.' While in a democratic church all are servants without rank, there is great need for a resumption of the dignity and worth of the deacon's office."

The author then goes on to discuss the size of the board, length of terms, number of meetings, traditional duties and so forth. These sections warrant some careful study and thought. Under "the Personal Influence of the Deacons or Deaconesses" is this brief but meaningful paragraph: "Election to either office is chiefly on the basis of Christian character. To maintain that ideal and tradition is a sacred obligation. However, this does not betoken frigidity nor dignified aloofness. A true deacon is a radiant, friendly soul, the impressive exponent of the abundant life. Children are attracted to him. Youth admire him and seek his understanding counsel. Adults seek to emulate his

example. His Christianity is warmly contagious. His humility, sincerity, and kindliness kindle the spark in other hearts.

"The deaconess should possess the same qualities."

Page after page of this little pamphlet is filled with excellent suggestions on how the Deacon or Deaconess can feed their own souls, become effective personal workers, adopt practices which will transform the church into the body of Christ and how to enlist and train more and better church members. The discussion on "how to make your church famous as a friendly church" is most helpful.

Dr. Montgomery ends his booklet with very practical suggestions on how to organize the Board of Deacons and Deaconesses and what to do at the regular meetings: "Suggested Agenda"

1. Prayer
2. Roll call and minutes of last meeting.
3. Report and recommendations of pastor
4. Report of committees
5. Reports on special assignments
6. Attention to new needs and assignments on same
7. Check-up to obviate oversights
8. Discussion on special topics for the evening
9. Service of prayer
10. Adjournment

"Suggested special topics for monthly meetings:"

1. The spiritual tone of our church
2. Our worship service; its strong and weak points
3. The value of symbols in worship
4. Help that people need and want from sermons
5. Our Communion service; how to make it more impressive and helpful
6. Standards and requirements for church membership.
7. How to make our Covenant come alive
8. Parish evangelism: Why? What? When? How?
9. Preparing candidates for church membership
10. How can we make our church more friendly?
11. How can we interest and help the underprivileged
12. How to improve our ministry to the sick and troubled
13. How to comfort the sorrowing wisely and graciously
14. Methods for increasing church attendance
15. The church year in relation to our program.

A copy of the manual is yours for the asking if you will promise to use it and share it.

We're on the march in the Southeast! Our big planning meeting of all boards and committees held here in Atlanta last week began to shape the policies and establish the practices which will characterize and implement our Program of Progress. But, no matter how well we plan and work

Church News . . .

At the annual meeting of the **Federated Church of Demorest**, reports from all departments showed much progress the past year.

Since the Rev. Charles O. Erickson, who had resigned to accept the chaplaincy at Defiance College, Defiance, Ohio, and Mrs. Erickson were leaving soon, the congregation presented a purse to him and a silver tray to his wife.

Professor Richard Drake and his wife were also honored, on the occasion, as Mr. Drake had accepted a teaching fellowship at Emory University in Atlanta. Mrs. Drake was presented with a silver compote in recognition of her faithful service as Choir Director.

The best wishes of the congregation go with both these families in their future work.

The Woman's Guild of the church has sent boxes to Eagle Butte, S.D., and to the Cotton Valley School in Alabama.

New officers elected for the coming year are: President, Miss Lois Leech; Vice president, Mrs. E. W. Butler; Chaplain, Mrs. C. L. Percy; Secretary, Mrs. Edith Mulkey; Treasurer, Mrs. Jill Clement.

—Mrs. E. W. Butler

The Sunday School attendance of the **Eclectic Union Church** has increased greatly this spring. There is a good spirit within the church, and the people seem to be more enthusiastic about the church and the services. The young people in the choir are also showing great improvement.

—Mrs. Lillie Mae Price

The **Alexander City Hunt Memorial Church** enjoyed the preaching mission held the first week in June with the Rev. Lowell A. Smoot of Phenix City, Ala., as the guest preacher.

During the week prior to the revival services, the congregation held cottage prayer meetings, under the leadership of the regular pastor, the Rev. M. L. Thrasher.

On Tuesday night during the services, an ice cream social was held, followed by fellowship services.

On June 8 the church held a "pounding" in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Ralley.

Mr. and Mrs. Alfords, who represented the church at the Southeast Convention Meeting, reported they had a wonderful time.

—Mrs. James Cumbee

On June 3 the **East Tallassee Liberty Church** held a fellowship supper followed with a business

on the Convention, Conference or Association level; unless we have the backing of strong local churches filled with spiritual power, we are doomed to failure. That's why I've devoted so much of my page to discussing the office and responsibility of the Board of Deacons and Deaconesses. Their's is the task of helping the church to envision and achieve its spiritual possibilities. Next month let's talk about the Board of Trustees.

—Erston M. Butterfield

meeting and discussion led by Supt. Butterfield in reference to securing a minister. The Rev. David Clark had resigned effective July 1. The Pulpit Committee has planned supply pastors until a new minister can be found.

Property improvements at the **United Church of Phenix City** are continually being made. One of the latest is the refinishing of the pulpit chairs by Sam Barr. Mr. Barr removed the old dark paint, added new upholstery, and then varnished them to bring out the beautiful grain of the wood. He is a member of the Board of Trustees.

The **Good Hope Church** of Baker, Fla., was honored May 10 by having as guests the Rev. Clyde C. Flannery, President of Southern Union College, and a group of the college students.

The adult class in Sunday School has a very interesting lesson with the Rev. Flannery as their teacher. Mr. Flannery also delivered the sermon, and the worship service was made more inspiring by the musical numbers of the Southern Union students.

We are looking forward to have the Rev. Flannery with us for a Revival meeting the last week in July.

The Rev. Edward Knight has resigned as pastor of the Lanett, Highway Church, after having been with them for three and a half years. During his pastorate the debt on the new parsonage was paid off and a mortgage burning held. The church was renovated inside, a new well dug for the water system, a playground provided for the young people, and a number of minor improvements made. Fifty-two new members were received, 30 last year.

The Pulpit Committee of the church has made arrangements for pulpit supply until a new pastor can be found.

Among the churches of the **Robbins Parish** the Church Building Loan Fund was emphasized during May, and all three churches sent in their Declarations of Purpose totaling \$240. Most of this has either been raised or has been voted from the church treasury. One woman with two children who receives about \$50 a month from "welfare" gave \$5. She said, "Mrs. Schorman, I figure that you don't lose what money you give to the Lord."

Miss Jane Merrill, the Religious Education Director of the First Church of Oak Park, Ill., visited the churches for a week during the month. The Oak Park Church contributes to the support of the work in the Robbins Parish.

—Rev. Wm. R. Schorman

The **Daisy Church** of Daisy, Tenn., held its Daily Vacation Bible School May 17-22, and Mrs. Claude Pendergrass, superintendent, thanked all those who had a part in making the school a success. The cooperation of all the children, parents and teachers was splendid, and this alone has proved that the school was worthwhile. Enrollment was 38, with an average daily attendance of 31. On Friday the children brought a love offering of \$10.10 which was sent to the Church Building Loan Fund.

—Rev. J. W. Davenport

(Please turn to page 9)

LAYMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

ANNUAL LAYMEN'S RETREAT

Twenty-five laymen and ministers had a most profitable and enjoyable retreat together at Southern Union College, Wadley, Ala., June 5, 6 and 7. Following a good dinner together Friday evening, Van Taunton of Dadeville, Ala., set the theme of the meeting with the keynote address, "Your Other Vocation." From then until Sunday at the morning worship hour, when Supt. Erston Butterfield challenged the group with an inspiring sermon, the meeting progressed far too fast and all present wished we could have had more time together.

A fine spirit of fellowship prevailed among the men, all participated in the various discussion groups, and during the rest periods had a wonderful time exchanging items of news about their local church and its activities. Indeed, closer bonds of fellowship now exist because of this time together.

Clyde Flannery gave a very good devotional Saturday morning for the beginning of the day's activities, and then Erston Butterfield gave us a timely lecture on, "Our Future," followed by a lively and instructive discussion. The afternoon session opened with the showing of our new stewardship film, "The Hidden Heart" and then recreation and rest until dinner time. Swimming was enjoyed later in the afternoon by several of the men, but many of the fellows had to take a nap due to the late "buzz" session Friday night.

Major Logan Weston's lecture on "Lay Ministry" Saturday night was so inspirational that rather than discuss his message the men chose to add personal experiences of theirs, all of which were challenging and pointed ways for laymen to further serve our Christian religion. The devotional for Saturday night was conducted by Fred Haley. The group assembled under the stars at the end of Kimball Hall and shared with Fred some personal experiences and which cause him to be an effective layman in service today.

Credit cannot be given to any particular lecture or person for all the program was helpful; however, the service that seems to mean most to the men is that of Holy Communion held early Sunday morning. This year the Rev. Richard K. Morton of Jacksonville, Fla., gave a very beautiful Communion message and with the assistance of Joe Davis and James Dollar as Deacons conducted the service.

The lecture for the morning was "This We Can Do" by Allan Saunders. Several programs and projects were listed by Allan that men can do and are doing. A short business session was held following the discussion period with Herman Cook presiding. A quorum of representative men of the Southeast being present, the resignation of Allan Saunders as vice president was accepted with regret. Tom Crenshaw was elected to serve out his term of office. Several commitments for the development of our work were made by the group.

Clyde Flannery had arranged for us to be very



Herman Cook, President of the Southeast Convention Laymen's Fellowship, accepting, on behalf of the laymen of the southeast, a Fellowship Bell from our National Director, Walter Graham.

"We sincerely appreciate this symbolic gift from Mr. Graham and our national Board of Directors," stated Mr. Cook, "and we are also grateful to Mrs. Jettie Logan for the picture of this presentation.

"The beautiful bell is used effectively by many fellowships in our great Communion to call men. We intend in our Southeast to use our bell to call us to challenging goals and greater projects, all to effectively support and undergird our total church program."

comfortable while at the College, and also saw to it that we had wonderful meals together—even to having coffee for us after the nightly "buzz" sessions.

Carl Dollar, our Rural Extension Director, was also on the scene cooperating grandly as usual.

Pocket crosses were presented to our special guests with the hope that they would mean as much to them as they do to many thousands of our laymen. All who attended said they would be looking forward to the retreat next year and would bring more men with them. With such interested and capable laymen telling the story to other laymen we will surely make many progressive steps during the year.

—Herman D. Cook

The East Alabama and West Georgia Laymen's Fellowship held its joint quarterly meeting May 30 at the United Church in Phenix City, Ala.

The program began at 7:30 P.M. with special music rendered by the Deep Valley Quartet. After a delicious steak supper, served by the ladies of the church, the men had a short business meeting. Odell Yancy was in charge of the meeting,

(Please turn to page 12)

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP —

Mrs. T. L. Cunningham of Pleasant Hill, Tenn., was unanimously elected President of the Southeast Convention Women's Fellowship at the Seminar held in connection with the Southeast Convention meeting in Chattanooga May 16 and 17.

Mrs. Cunningham was Moderator of the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference in 1952, and has served on the Board of Directors of the Southeast Convention.

During the Seminar session, a panel discussion was given by Miss Miriam Heermans, Mrs. Peter Doheerty, Mrs. Arnold Slater and Mrs. Jettie Logan. Mrs. Slater stated the four goals of the national fellowship: 1) To further Our Christian World Mission by helping establish and strengthen the Committee on Education and Stewardship in every local church; 2) To deepen our spiritual life as individuals and as families; 3) To promote in every local church the showing of the film, "The Hidden Heart" and receive an offering for Our Christian World Mission; and 4) To support in every possible way the Church Building Loan Fund Campaign.

Mrs. Logan spoke of the importance of the Retreats and commented briefly on some of the materials that will be in the program packets.

When discussing the Women's Gift, several points were brought out: 1) The use of individual boxes and promotional material was urged; 2) The importance of dedication services for local churches was stressed.

Miss Heermans urged that the women promote the showing of the new film, "The Hidden Heart" and she also stressed the importance of supporting the Church Building Loan Fund Campaign.

It was voted to select a Convention chairman and allow her to work with the three state presidents and the Convention office in making up a Convention calendar of meetings to present to the women in local meetings.

In closing, Mrs. Cunningham quoted the national president of the Women's Fellowship, "To see in clear reality the force for good that Christ can be . . ." Following this, the meeting adjourned.

—Mrs. D. W. Shepherd

On April 29, the Women's Christian Service Club of United Church in Phenix City was privileged to have the Baker High School Tri Hi Y girls, under the leadership of Mrs. Lowell Smoot, as their guests.

These girls led an interesting discussion on Home Life. Everyone participated in the discussion, expressing the part each member of the family must take to have a successful and happy home life.

PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP —

The young people of the **East Tallassee Liberty Church** held a retreat at the Selman Bradley Youth Camp on Lake Martin June 9 and 10. Twenty-three young people attended and enjoyed the fellowship of swimming, workshop, hobbies, entertainment, and worship. One of the highlights of the retreat was the stunts performed by each group—the funniest one being the Bride and Groom (Kathleen Worley and Bobby Jack Pemberton) dressing for the wedding with the suitcases switched so that the boy dressed in the girls clothes and vice versa. Bobby Jack was a scream in all the feminine clothes, including hose and high heel shoes. Five young people from the Mt. Olive Church attended the retreat with the East Tallassee group.

—Mrs. Floyd Ballard

Five delegates from **Good Hope CE Society** attended the South Alabama-Northwest Florida Youth Fellowship Conference at Andalusia First Church on April 18 and 19. The young people really made us feel welcome and we enjoyed the conference very much.

Our society has recently sent another \$18 to the Lucy Perry Noble Institute in Madurai, South India. This pays for another six months of school for Savariammal.

After the program the girls had charge of the social hour. They entertained the club with games and presented special rendition of talent, including piano, accordion and guitar solos, duets and group singing.

Refreshments were served to approximately 30 members and guests.

—Paralee Hill

The Women's Fellowship of the **East Tallassee Liberty Church** held its regular monthly meeting at the church June 8th. Willa Durden was in charge of the worship program. New officers were elected for the coming year: Mrs. Merle Baker, President; Mrs. Lorelei Ballard, Vice-president; Mrs. Irene Scroggins, Secretary; Miss Willa Durden, Treasurer. The fellowship voted to give the young people \$20 to help pay their way to the conference at Southern Union. Mrs. Gene Schnell served delicious homemade ice cream and cake to the group.

—Mrs. Floyd Ballard

The Women's Fellowship of the **Pilgrim Church, Corbin**, recently elected officers for the coming year. Miss Edna Smith is President; Mrs. Edgar Hopper is Vice President, and Mrs. A. O. Bennett, is Secretary.

The group agreed to send a cash donation to the Witherspoon Orphanage which recently burned and pledged fifty dollars to the Church Building Loan Fund Campaign.

—Mrs. Edward Cummins

Southern Union College

Mr. and Mrs. Herman Patterson will join the college staff next fall. The Pattersons have been living in Evarts, Ky., for four years, teaching high school and working very energetically in our Congregational Christian Church. Herman is president of the Kentucky-Tennessee Laymen's Fellowship. He will teach Business Administration and his wife, Maxine, will teach English, French and Journalism.

Several new books have been added to the college library during the past year. These books are available for lending to ministers of our Fellowship. If you want to borrow a book, write to the librarian, giving the title and author of the book. If we do not have it, we will order it. You may keep the book two weeks. The only charge is the return postage.

Did you know that ministers of the Southeast Convention may buy books through the college bookstore at a discount, even cheaper than getting them through the book clubs? On most books there will be a 20% discount. The college feels that this is another form of service it can render the ministers and churches of the area. At the present time we have some Baptismal certificates, promotion certificates, visitor's welcome cards, and some large posters for Vacation Church Schools. Let us know what you want, or come by and look over our supplies.

Through the generosity of a good friend in the Mid-west, several tuition scholarships will be made available to worthy young men and women of the area. If you know of any deserving students who need financial help before they can go to college, please write President Clyde C. Flannery, Wadley, Ala.

The campus is a busy place this summer. In addition to the six-week session of summer school, many denominational camps and conferences are being held. The Laymen's Retreat was held June 5-7; the Junior Hi Conference will be held July 5-11; Senior Hi July 19-25; Women's Fellowship Retreat July 14-15. Since the college is assuming the responsibility for meals and lodging, it is important to get reservations in—so please send yours immediately if you have not already done so.

Church News

(From page 6)

At the Robbins Trailer City, Aiken, S. C., the Rev. Matthew B. Porter has begun his ministry to the people living in the 1,000 trailer units. The Porter's occupy two trailers on "N" Street - one is "home" and the other is the Pastor's Study. In front of his office Reverend Mr. Porter has placed a neat sign giving his name and denominational affiliation. Over the sign is a small white cross. No one driving down "N" Street could fail to note that the 3,700 people in Trailer City now have a minister.

Mr. Porter has been busy getting out a newsletter telling of the reasons for his presence and the ways in which he hopes to serve. This he distributes to the people as he makes his pastoral calls from trailer to trailer. He also is distributing

Alabama Central Association



Alabama Central Association is operating under its new Constitution to promote the Church Building Loan Fund and subscriptions for the *Southeast News*.

Each church is being encouraged to collect its Per Capita Dues and Apportionment each quarter so as to have the funds ready to send in by August, when the Central Alabama Association will hold its next meeting. As we operate on a more business-like basis, our churches in the Association will grow and expand. We will be better churches in our communities as we understand and meet our obligations to ourselves and to God and become more self-supporting.

Five of our churches have voted to participate in the Church Building Loan Fund Campaign, and we are praying that the others will send in their Declarations of Purpose in the near future so the Central Association will be 100%.

Officers for the Alabama Central Association are the Rev. M. O. Worley, Moderator; Mrs. Jettie Logan, Assistant Moderator, and Mrs. Roy Culpepper, Secretary and Treasurer.

—Mrs. Roy Culpepper

copies of "The Congregational Christian Churches - for What Do They Stand."

Before long Mr. Porter hopes to begin a series of audio-visual programs presented out of doors in a different part of the city for each of three nights. These programs should be helpful in many ways - not in the least to provide a needed diversion from the dull routine life of the Trailer City.

Mr. Porter will be finding new ways to ministering to his people. There are many problems - no building in which to meet (The A.E.C. has cancelled its plans for a community building), no settled congregation, the unbearable heat of the day as the sun turns the metal trailers into ovens, and the mosquitoes as soon as the sun goes down. But the Porter's are there doing the work that needs to be done, and many will bless them for their labors.

Growth in Church Membership

The Congregational Christian Churches in America, with a total membership of nearly a million and a half, have made a gross gain in membership during the past year of 102,450, according to Dr. Wofford C. Timmons of New York City, Director of the Commission on Evangelism and Devotional Life of the Congregational Christian Churches. Figures for the year 1952 show a net gain of 27,989 members over 1951.

This growth in church membership has been a steady, quiet increase based on Christian nurture through Christian education for children and youth, points out Dr. Timmons and also special efforts in visitation programs by laymen. He adds that this increase is not alone in the traditionally strong Congregational centers such as New England, as might be expected, but in states like California, Ohio, Michigan, Florida and New York.

In the Southeast Convention we only gained 140 members! That is, according to our Year Book blanks which were filled out and returned to the Southeast Convention office. We show a gain of 29 in Church School membership and a gain of 22 in young people's organizations.

We feel that the gains made have been more than our figures show, and we earnestly urge ministers, church clerks and association registrars to help us to have our records more complete and correct so that we can make our Year Book reports truly representative of the growth in the Southeast Convention.

Some of the Year Book blanks are returned to the Southeast Convention office incompletely filled out. This December, when you are making your reports, please include the number of children and adults attending Sunday School, the number of young people in the Pilgrim Fellowship groups, and the number of adult education groups—such as the Women's Missionary Societies, the Laymen's Fellowship groups, etc.

This will help us to have a more complete and accurate record—one of which we can all be proud.

Echoes of the Church Building Loan Fund Campaign

We take considerable satisfaction from the fact that as of June 1st, Area III (of which the Southeast Convention is a part) is leading the country in the total amount represented by Declarations of Purpose received in the New York office. Here is the record:

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Area III | \$483,375.19 |
| Area VI | 405,940.43 |
| Area II | 392,755.60 |
| Area IV | 388,893.88 |
| Area V | 224,980.77 |
| Area I | 127,439.96 |
| | \$2,023,385.83 |
| All other sources | 963,788.29 |
| Campaign Total | \$ 2,987,174.12 |

We also take pride in the fact that the Southeast Convention is second in the Area III Confer-

ences and Conventions—only Florida is ahead of us.

| | | |
|----------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| Florida | 99.9% of goal | \$ 53,920.00 |
| Southeast Convention | 72.7% of goal | 21,796.00 |
| Ohio | 60.1% of goal | 204,164.44 |
| Michigan | 52.8% of goal | 155,794.75 |
| Conv. of South | 43.6% of goal | 15,250.00 |
| Indiana | 40.6% of goal | 32,450.00 |
| | | 58% of goal \$483,375.19 |

If the churches who have not yet sent in their Declarations of Purpose would do so by the time of the Association meetings, we could be 100% by fall!

MISSIONARY WORK AT THE VILLAGE LEVEL

In increasing number the people of America, and particularly the Christian group, are interested and concerned for the welfare of the rest of the world. There is growing recognition, not only of the fact that what happens to the rest of the world will affect our very lives here, but of the necessity to reach people of other lands **in the villages** with the tools to implement the ideals which make for a free democratic way of life.

For 140 years missionaries of the American Board have been serving in other lands—not only preaching but teaching health, training people in agricultural methods—giving them the tools for better living and bringing them the spiritual power to use them for social development.

In the Philippines

To clear a field in the Philippines, Filipino farmers burn the green cover growth. Then they plant corn, harvest it, burn the cover, and replant. The land wears out within a few seasons, and then they move on. This is all right so long as there is virgin land ahead. But what happens when there is no more frontier?

To prevent further depletion of the soils rich wealth on Mindanao, huge frontier island of the Philippines, Guy Thelin is developing an agricultural extension program among Mindanao's new settlers. Composting, diversification of crops, experimentation with poultry and cattle, are among the important lessons it teachers - by demonstration, so all can see.

In Vadala, Western India

Gifford Towle is an agricultural missionary in Vadala, western India. He has developed a model farm at Vadala which is both a practice area for his vocational school students and a demonstration center for farmers of villages near and far. The sheep and chickens and the sorghum and corn raised on the farm are quite impressive. But they are raised by methods which can be duplicated in any village in India with ease. And because the villagers constantly visit the farm and see for themselves what can be done, Vadala's influence and Towle's, is tremendous.

New Industry in India

When hungry people came to her door in India,

MEDITATIONS BY MINISTERS

"Let's Chat About the Church"

By Elium E. Gault

STOP!! Don't read any further unless you have time to read it all and to think it through.

Now, if you are settled, let's talk first about why we go to church, **why** worship.

A few weeks ago I preached a sermon on WHY, stating that each of us should ask the question, "why," more often. And we should seek until we find an answer which not only satisfied but one which is correct.

Now, in this matter of worship—worship should be creative for everyone. If you were offered the opportunity to become happier, healthier, and more useful, would you refuse?

Yet, many are refusing it every week! Many others would accept it if one application were all that is needed to produce permanent results, but become weary at the thought of **continually striving**.

To deepen and enrich the quality of your life, remember this—"Men tend to become like that which is the chief interest of their lives."

If power is your chief interest, then you have ample heroes to point to, including Stalin, Hitler, Tito, Tojo and others. If wealth is your only goal, take a look at the morality of Hollywood, the Capones and the Jelkes. If physical pleasure is your concern, then cast your gaze upon the prodigal son as well as the tattered man in the local saloon, for that could be YOU in a very short time.

But now think, do you know of someone you would like to be like? Someone who is perfect and good? Then find out what made them as they are.

Some of the greatest men of all time have had a deep and abiding love of God in their lives—Jesus, Paul, St. Francis, Luther, George Washington, Lincoln, Kagawa, and others. It was not accidental that they became great men. Their ideas of God became part of their lives and they became like God.

This did not happen to them overnight. Neither did Ernest become like the Great Stone Face overnight. (Short story by Nathaniel Hawthorne). Like him, their efforts were directed toward being like their highest ideals. They worshipped God;

Edna Long was deeply distressed. She gave them what she could, but knew that charity of this sort made no great impact on India's need and solved not even minor problems. Surely there was some way to help these people substantially. So Edna Long experimented. She discovered that from the cactus-like sisal plant useful articles - handbags, belts, and other goods, could be made for sale in the foreign market. She discovered that Indian women, given such materials and a little help, could make beautiful things easily and with delight. So Edna Long built up an industry of women workers, who with the labor of their hands build a better life for themselves and their families. Today that Sisal Fibre Industry is a model for others throughout India.

and to worship God sincerely and persistently is to grow in his likeness as Jesus did.

Between times of concentrated worship, the vision of how to live better and more useful lives tends to fade, but as we return to worship each week it is renewed, becomes stronger and each time it continues to transform our lives. It takes time; on application is not enough. Joining the church is just the beginning.

As we continue to worship we discover that gradually evil becomes less attractive and the desire of goodness, as found in the example of Jesus and others who lived on a higher plane, becomes stronger.

You see, you do have the power to become the Sons of God. Through worship which is regular and constant you rise above the level of the animal and become like God, your ideal, in whose image you were created. Try it to see if it does not become a part of you.

Then why does anyone neglect gathering together to worship God?

In Church you will meet Christian friends who are working for a world of love and peace. They are not perfect, but they are following the Master's way to help make their lives better, more helpful and less selfish. You can help them if you will.

GO TO CHURCH SUNDAY!

* * *

The Rev. Elium E. Gault is the pastor of the Highlands Community Church in Springfield, Ohio. This meditation was re-printed from his weekly news-sheet, which is one of our exchanges.

* * *

Note: We are using this out-of-the-area meditation for two reasons—we think it is very good and that our readers will find it helpful. The second reason is that we did not receive a meditation from the ministers of the Southeast Convention. Won't you please take time to write one for us and send it in before the next issue? This page was begun at the request of several subscribers, who felt the need of a page of spiritual uplift in each issue. They (and we) are depending on you!

A PLAN FOR BUILDING

(From page 3)

Piedmont College could play a leading role under inspired leadership. Too, we should use to better advantage the funds of the old Atlanta Seminary Foundation which are now at Vanderbilt. If a Nashville church is built, Nashville should be an area which could be a key one for the reaching out to meet the new day.

As important as it is to build churches, as we are now reminded by the Church Building Loan Fund Campaign, it seems to me that it is equally important that we concern ourselves with the people that go into these churches. Here the task of our church in education is pointed up. Not only should the work of Southern Union be strengthened, and the task of Piedmont be redefined relative to the denomination, but we should also establish Congregational Christian student centers at leading state and private universities throughout the

673 Piedmont Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta, Georgia

Fred Haley
3124 New Marietta Highway
Atlanta, Ga.

Southeast Convention Calendar Of Events

- July 5-11 Junior Hi Conference at Southern Union College, Wadley, Ala.
- July 14-19 Senior Hi Conference, Wadley, Ala.
- July 14-15 Alabama Women's Retreat, Wadley, Ala.
- July 22 Representatives from all association and conference Ministerial Standing committees to meet in Atlanta with Convention Ministry and Churches Committee.
- Aug. 2-8 Sealacan Camp, Headland, Ala.
- Aug. 16-22 Waycross Family Camp, Waycross, Ga.
- Aug. 18 Board of Directors' meeting in Atlanta.
- Aug. 21 Georgia Women's Retreat, Waycross, Ga.
- Aug. 14-15 South Ala.-Northwest Fla. Association meeting at Blackwood Church, Headland.
- Aug. 14-15 Central, Ala. Association meeting at Mt. Olive Church, Tallassee, Ala.
- Aug. 22-23 North Ala. Association meeting at Friendship Church, Trinity, Ala.
- Sept. 29-30 Education and Youth Work Committee meets with Miss Mildred Widbur in Atlanta.
- Oct. 14-15 East Ala. Association meeting at Lanett Church, Lanett, Ala.
- Oct. 21-22 Georgia-S.C. Conference at United Church, Columbus, Ga.
- Oct. 24-25 Kentucky-Tennessee Conference at Stearns, Ky.
- Oct. 26-27 Alabama Conference, place to be announced later.

south. The first two student centers, it seems to me, ought to be established at the University of Alabama and at Vanderbilt.

Perhaps others should be set up at Auburn, the University of Kentucky, Atlanta Division of the University of Georgia, or Emory, College of Charleston, University of Georgia, Tennessee, Berea or University of Louisville and South Carolina. Such a group of student centers would give us two in each state of our Convention turning out from our universities laymen and ministers who would strengthen our churches throughout the whole region.

Convention self-sufficiency is perhaps our chief financial goal. With the opportunity before us, we must have a plan. I suggest this as only a plan so that our church may meet its challenge and we can carry our full share of Christ's work in our south.

Georgia Family Camp

Waycross, Ga. Aug. 16-22, 1953

Registration fee: \$2.50 (to cover cost of camp rental. **Board:** adults \$6; children under 12 \$3; married couples \$12.75 (total). Provisions will be accepted instead of board money.

Children under 12 must be accompanied by their parents or a capable guardian; camp will not be responsible for them.

Things to Bring: Bible, notebook, bed linen, personal effects, bathing suit, camera, flashlight, recreational and musical equipment.

Please notify Miss Patricia Wynn, Rt. 2, Waycross, Ga., as soon as possible, so she will know how many people to plan for.

Officers

Dean, Rev. Earl Hand, Pearson, Ga.; Asst. Dean, Rev. Henry Abbott, Tifton, Ga.; Dean of Women, Mrs. R. H. Abbott, Tifton, Ga.; Dean of Men, Rev. Ralph Dr. Worley, Waycross; Registrar, Miss Patricia Wynn, Rt. 2, Waycross; Dietitian & Bus. Mgr., Mrs. M. J. Lynn, Waycross; Camp Nurse, Mrs. E. T. Wildes, Waycross; Canteen, Mr. and Mrs. E. T. Wildes.

Camp will open at 4:00 P.M. on Aug. 16th.

Laymen's Fellowship

(From page 7)

and a Nominating Committee was appointed to select a slate of officers for the next year. Herman Cook led a discussion on the laymen's retreat held at Wadley.

After the business session, the laymen enjoyed an interesting and inspiring talk by Chaplain Charles E. Weeks of Ft. Benning, Ga.

Approximately 75 men were present and the laymen of Phenix City were delighted to greet them and hope to see each one again at the next meeting, to be held at Noon Day Church in Wedowee.

—Paralee Hill

The regular monthly meeting of the Phenix City Laymen, held at the United Church, was another Father and Son Night. Approximately 26 men and boys were present. Otto Tice showed a series of movies which were most entertaining, and refreshments were enjoyed by all.

—Paralee Hill